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EWWW!

- Just be thankful you can't smell it, too
- Metro surveyed the city's best and worst public restrooms
- Oh, and this photo wasn't the worst one we had, either {page 02}

News

More pay credit cards on time

- Number of Americans falling behind on debt payments at 17-year low
- That's despite an increase in usage {page 06}

Did reality TV cause suicide?

Examining the tragedy of a 'Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' cast member {page 07}

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Cleanliness flushed down public toilets

Hair, urine and feces found in city's public bathrooms ◗ Castle Island and Boston Public Library ranked worst in Metro minipoll ◗ Fanuiel Hall restrooms get out-of-towners approval

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ A used razor with hair strands is left in the men's public bathroom at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square.

Clean and mean

The good:

- Fanueil Hall
- State House on Beacon Hill
- South Station

The ugly:

- Boston Public Library
- A city toilet outside BPL was out of service
- Castle Island

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LET US KNOW THE WORST PLACES TO GO

POST YOUR THOUGHTS AT WWW.METRO.US

Some of the city's public toilets are covered with excrement and vomit or backed up with wads of toilet paper, which makes an emergency bathroom situation for anyone out and about less than desirable.

Metro did an unofficial tally of six high-traffic public toilets around town to find out which ones were suitable for sitting on and which should be avoided — even when you have to go.

If you plan on making a trip to South Boston to walk along the water at Castle Island, make sure you use the bathroom before you get there.

While the stench in the men's room was awful but understandable, the smears of fecal matter on the outsides of one of the toilets were not.

There was no soap in the dispenser for patrons to wash their hands, either.

In the women's room, Metro found vomit in one of the toilet stalls.

Four out of six of those stalls were unusable because they were either backed up with balls of toilet paper or covered in an undetermined wetness.

In Copley Square, Metro ventured into the Boston Public Library, where the men's room featured a patron flossing in front of the mirror next to a used razor and clumps of shaved hair.

The bathroom smelled liked wet clothes, but one user didn't seem to mind.

"Considering the people that are using it, I would say it is pretty clean," said Jay, 54, as he left the bathroom.

The women's room was cleaner, compared to the Southie spot, but a user said the scene "looked like someone had a toilet paper fight."

A spokesperson from the BPL said the bathrooms are cleaned twice a day and spot-checked for general cleanliness by the custodial staff. She seemed surprised by the mention of used razors.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Coin-op on the go

Peter O'Sullivan, director of street furniture for the city, said there are eight coin-operated bathrooms around Boston. The self-cleaning devices are maintained daily by a cleaning crew and O'Sullivan hopes to get a few more either in the Haymarket or Boston Garden areas. METRO/SA

In the news

Cops hunt for owner of diamond

Boston police yesterday said they are trying to locate the owner of a diamond engagement ring found in the Fenway area Saturday by a good Samaritan. The rightful owner will need to provide police with a detailed description of the ring as well as proof of ownership.

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ON YOUTUBE, YOU TOO COULD BE U2

WWW.METRO.US/FOOD
RECIPE: GRILLED PEACH SANDWICH

CITY OF BOSTON

▶ Tower rendering

Copley Place group pushes tower plan

The property group that operates Copley Place said yesterday that it has filed a report with the city about its intentions to build a 47-story building on the site.

The Draft Project Impact Report shows Simon Property Group's intentions to move ahead with the project that would add another building to the city's skyline.

$500M Estimated cost of the Copley Place renovation and tower construction, according to Simon Property Group

Neiman Marcus would undergo an extensive renovation, 318 residential units would be built, as would a glass-enclosed "Wintergarden," according to Simon. METRO

Continuing By Popular Demand!

Burning the Midnight Oil

Midnight Classes Continue at Bunker Hill Community College
Fall semester classes begin September 6, 2011

ENG-111: College Writing I
(3 credits – Section H4)
Thursday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

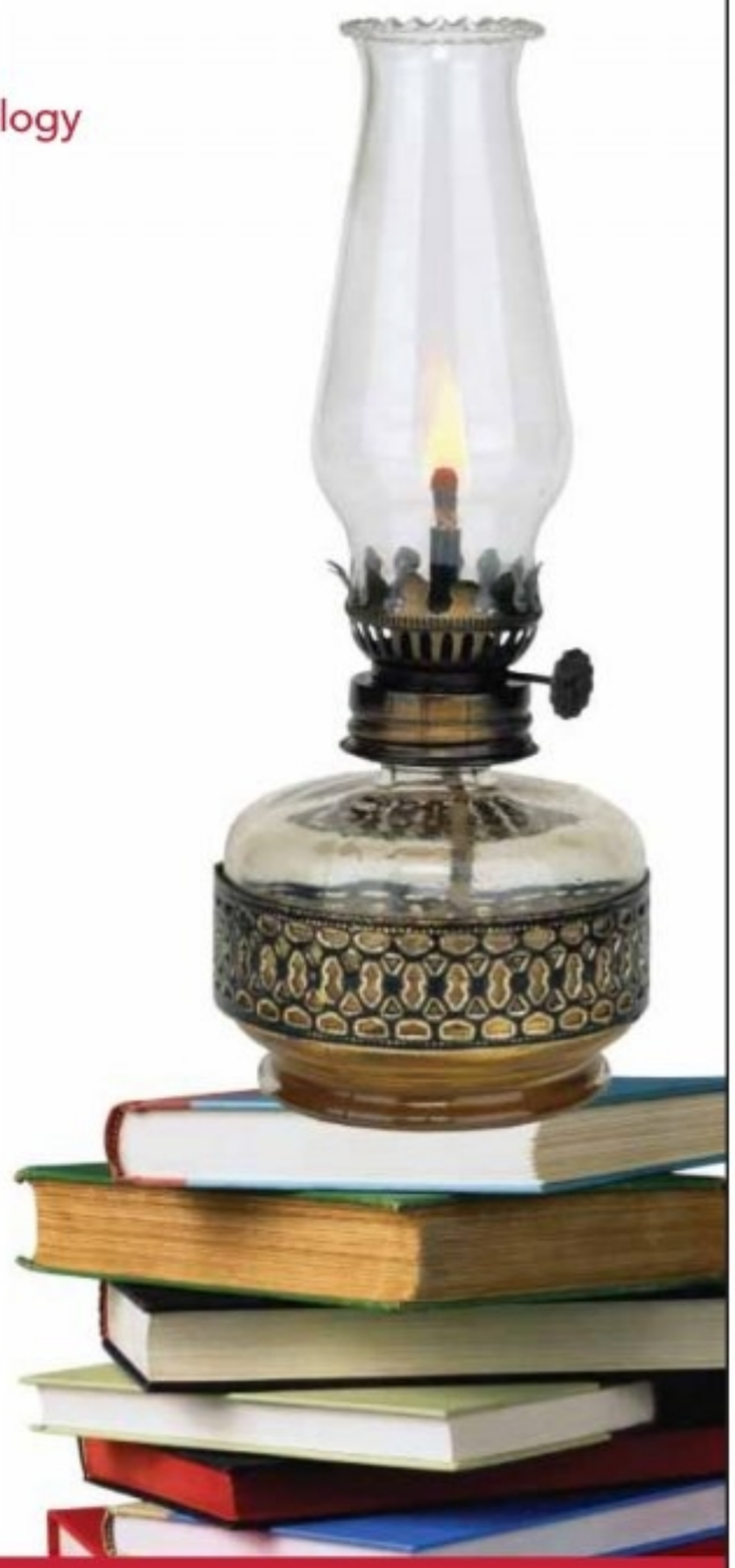
ENG-112: College Writing II
(3 credits – Section H2)
Thursday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

MAT-094: Fundamentals of Algebra
(3 credits – Section W2)
Wednesday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

PSY-101: Principles of Psychology
(3 credits – Section H3)
Thursday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

PSY-213: Human Growth and Development
(3 credits – Section T1)
Tuesday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

SOC-101: Principles of Sociology
(3 credits – Section M2)
Monday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.



Community Education: non-credit courses in Basic ENGLISH as a Second Language (BSL) now available at midnight, too!

BSL-001: Speak/Listen I
(Non-credit – Section W1)
Wednesday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

BSL-002: Read/Write I
(Non-credit – Section T1)
Tuesday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

BSL-005: Speak/Listen II
(Non-credit – Section H1)
Thursday, 11:45 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

Registration ends September 2, 2011

Registration information: www.bhcc.mass.edu/midnight-courses

Questions: call 617-228-2387 or email onlineadvising@bhcc.mass.edu

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News in brief

Sovereign HQ moving to Hub

BOSTON. Sovereign Bank announced Monday that it's formally moving its headquarters to Boston. The move makes it the largest retail bank based in Massachusetts. Sovereign is currently based in Pennsylvania, and the move won't have an immediate impact on Sovereign's employment in Mass. BOSTON.COM

Dr. charged with bad scrips

NATICK. A Natick surgeon was indicted yesterday for illegally prescribing thousands of Percocet pills. A Middlesex grand jury indicted Dr. Kathleen Porter, 59, according to the Middlesex district attorney's office. Porter allegedly prescribed 58,000 pills to three patients. An arraignment date has not been set. METRO

Driver makes alleged threats

SALEM. A Salem man is charged with threatening a 12-year-old girl after he apparently became upset about her crossing the street in front of his car. Richard Greenlaw, 48, stopped to let the girl cross Saturday night, but then yelled something out the window at her, according to the Salem News. The girl yelled back and he allegedly followed her, got out of the car with a pit bull and then waved a knife. METRO

Boston bar faces sanction after man jumps off roof

Atlantic Beer Garden goes before city's Licensing Board ● Jumper's antics were caught on video ● Crowds gathered at bars cheered man on

A Seaport bar will learn its fate tomorrow after a patron jumped off of the bar's roof and into Boston Harbor.

Officials from the Atlantic Beer Garden went before the city's Licensing Board yesterday for a "Premise Violation Hearing" to discuss the incident.

The board's agenda states that an unruly patron jumped off the roof and into the water leading to concerns about a hazardous condition.

The board's executive secretary would not comment on the matter, but said the board members would likely make a decision at tomorrow's meeting.

A lawyer for the Northern Avenue bar did not return messages for comment by press time.

YOUTUBE.COM

▶ This jump was followed by an encore belly flop.

Video of the June 18 incident was posted on YouTube and shows the man holding a fake Stanley Cup before running and jumping into the water. The incident happened the day of the Bruins' victory parade.

Another video shows the man pleasing the crowd's desire for more and he does what appears to be a painful belly flop back into the water from a nearby parking lot. He is helped out of the water by a friend and then uses what looks like a Bruins rally towel to dry his face off.

WANNA SEE? WATCH THE VIDEOS: WWW.METRO.US

Possible censure

- The city's licensing board **has wide discretion** on what sort of sanction it can impose on the bar after holding its initial hearing yesterday.
- **Board members could decide** that no violation took place or vote to suspend or cancel the bar's license.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

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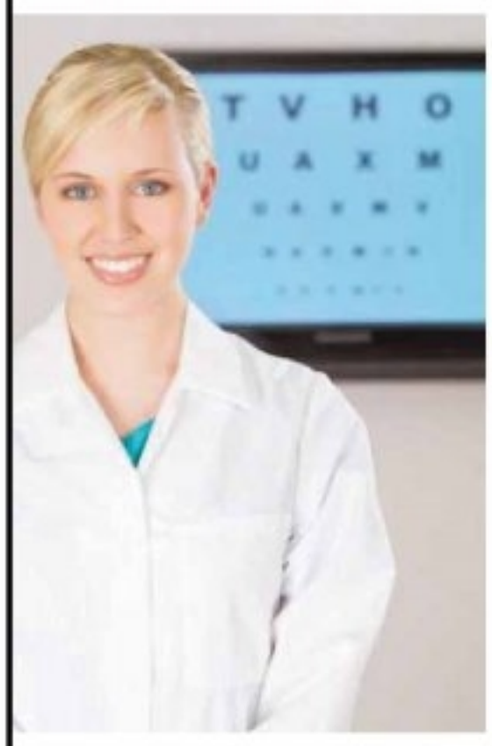

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— JOANNE GRACE, paralegal; BU certificate awarded 2010

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Late payments on credit cards fall to 17-year low

Credit-card users are so focused on keeping their accounts in good standing that they've driven the rate of late payments down to its lowest level in 17 years.

The national credit-card delinquency rate, or rate of payments 90 days or more past due, fell to 0.60 percent in the second quarter, down from 0.92 percent a year ago.

That's the lowest rate since 1994, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion.

Delinquencies were expected to drop, but the improvement in that April to June period was faster than forecast.

And the improved payment habits came despite increased use of credit cards, based on quarterly data reported by banks that issue Visa and Mastercard-branded cards and data from American Express Co. and Discover Financial Corp.

TransUnion also saw higher card use, reflected in a slight uptick in the amount of debt card users carried during the quarter. The average combined total debt for all major credit cards increased by $20 from the first three months of the year — to $4,699 per borrower. Even so, that amount is down more than 5 percent from the $4,951 average in the second quarter of 2010, and is 16 percent lower than the peak average debt of $5,575 in the first quarter of 2009.

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COMSTOCK

▶ Americans are keeping a close eye on their credit.

"Not only do we have consumers that are using their debt more responsibly and taking out less debt, they've also cut back on the number of the cards they carry."
CHET WIERMANSKI, TRANSUNION

Agency affirms America's AAA rating

Fitch Ratings yesterday confirmed the United States' top-notch credit rating and, in blatant disagreement with rival Standard & Poor's, gave a vote of confidence to Washington's deficit-reduction efforts.

Fitch also kept a stable outlook on its U.S. AAA rating, less than two weeks after S&P downgraded the United States to AA-plus with a negative outlook.

The agency said, however, that it will revisit its decision at the end of the year. It threatened to slap a negative outlook on the rating at that time if lawmakers fail to implement the $2.1 trillion in savings that were agreed earlier this month or if the economy deteriorates significantly. REUTERS

Bachmann subsidized

Rep. Michele Bachmann, a 2012 presidential contender and a critic of federal spending, received between $5,000 and $15,000 in income last year from a family farm that has received more than $250,000 in federal subsidies, according to her most recent House financial-disclosure form. Bachmann also reported that her interest in the farm was valued at between $500,000 and $1 million in 2010. REUTERS

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Tragic Beverly Hills suicide

As you've no doubt heard, **Russell Armstrong**, the estranged husband of "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" cast member **Taylor Armstrong**, was found dead yesterday from what police are calling a suicide.

TMZ.com reported that a roommate discovered Armstrong, 47, hanging in a bedroom in his Los Angeles home. No suicide note was found.

Personal and financial trouble plagued Armstrong in the past few years. In July, he was slammed with a $1.5 million breach of contract lawsuit by a company that claimed he misused their funds to redecorate the mansion he shared with Taylor and their 5-year-old daughter, Kennedy. Taylor and Russell also had well-documented altercations (a recent National Enquirer article stated that Taylor had a steel plate inserted into her eye socket during an operation to save her eye after Russell punched her in the face). Russell admitted to People magazine that things would get hot with his wife, but: "This [TV] show has literally pushed us to the limit."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Russell, Taylor and Kennedy Armstrong in March of this year.

Quoted

"As a couple, they lived way beyond their means."
ARMSTRONG'S LAWYER, RONALD RICHARDS

"His credit cards weren't working. ... He had tremendous financial problems," Armstrong's lawyer Ronald Richards told TMZ. "He was also extremely bummed out about the divorce with Taylor."

All of this is awful, but here's the truly horrendous part: Apparently the problems between Taylor and Russell were going to be a huge plot point in the next season of "Real Housewives of Beverly Hills," set to premiere Sept. 5 on Bravo. "All of us at Bravo are deeply saddened by this tragic news. Our sympathy and thoughts are with the Armstrong family at this difficult time," the cable network said in a statement. But Bravo offered no word whether or not they are going to continue with the second season as planned.

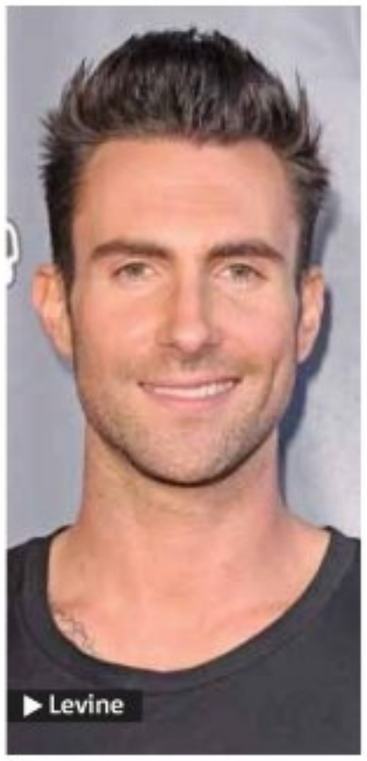
On one hand, it's terrible that the network would even think of airing the show, as a man is now dead and a little girl is without a father. On the other, you know deep down that you would watch. And so would millions of other rubbernecking Americans. Sad, but so very true.

So what do you think, readers? Should Bravo take the low road and continue on with Season 2 as planned, or scrap it and let this troubled family be at peace? Write in to let me know.

Talking points

Prince Harry, single again

Prince Harry and model **Florence Brudenell-Bruce** have reportedly called it quits because Harry is preparing for the army, according to People magazine. "Harry has a lot on his mind at the moment. He is concentrating on his Apache helicopter training. After that, he's expecting to return to Afghanistan," a source says of the prince, who recently returned f Conan acation with friends to Majorca. "Harry enjoyed spending time with friends over the summer, but he doesn't want to be tied down in a relationship when training."



▶ Levine

An equal opportunity judge

Adam Levine says the reason his singing competition show, "The Voice," is better than "American Idol" is because of the way his show treats gay contestants. "What's always pissed me off about 'Idol' is wanting to mask that, for that to go unspoken," he tells Out magazine. "Come on. You can't be publicly gay? At this point? On a singing competition? Give me a break. You can't hide basic components of these people's lives." Levine is especially passionate about the topic because of his brother. "I can single-handedly dispel any ideas that sexuality is acquired," Levine laughs. "Trust me, you're born with it. My brother is gay, and we knew when he was 2. We all knew."

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

Bieber rakes in the cash

Justin Bieber is Hollywood's richest teen, according to People magazine. He pulled in a reported $53 million last year. Most of his impressive income came from his 3-D movie, "Never Say Never," and his perfume line, Someday, which reached $3 million in retail sales in just three weeks. Former No.1 **Miley Cyrus** dropped to the second spot, earning only $48 million last year.

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Ellen DeGeneres has been on the road too long, Joel McHale is ready for action, Demi Moore has a lot going on, and Conan O'Brien is getting questionable investment advice.

▶ **@TheEllenShow**
I had a lot of fun traveling around, but I'm glad to be home. Last night I got up to get some water and wound up in my closet.

▶ **@joelmchale**
About to go on Regis. I'm going to ask about his childhood and what it was like to ride a triceratops to school.

▶ **@mrskutcher**
Time for bed fantasy football league owners dinner tonight time to get serious about my draft!

▶ **@ConanOBrien**
Betting big on tech stock. Is "America Online" a good company?

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SPY A CELEB IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? SNAP SOME PICS AT A GREAT SHOW LAST NIGHT? SEND YOUR SEEN ON THE SCENE PHOTOS TO **THEWORD@METRO.US** AND WE'LL PRINT THE BEST ONES HERE.

A tiny singing superstar and other attractions

1: A very wee Kylie Minogue and friend William Baker strolled around Portofino, Italy, on Monday.
2: Young actors in love: Chord Overstreet and Emma Roberts took a spin on the Astro Orbitor attraction at Disneyland on Monday in Anaheim, Calif.
3: Actress Jane Fonda attended a signing for her book "Prime Time: Love, Health, Sex, Fitness, Friendship, Spirit" at Barnes & Noble at The Grove on Monday in Los Angeles.
4: Ooh la la: 50 Cent performed at the 50 Cent Party at Palais Club on Sunday in Cannes, France.
5: Actress and director Vera Farmiga attended the premiere of her new film, "Higher Ground," in NYC on Monday.
6: "True Blood" hottie Alexander Skarsgard was spotted on the set of his new film, "What Maisie Knew," on Monday in NYC.
7: Actress Krysten Ritter posed for a photo at a special screening of "Life Happens" at the Visual Arts Theater in NYC on Monday.

1: JACOPO RAULE/GETTY IMAGES
2: PAUL HIFFMEYER/DISNEY PARKS VIA GETTY IMAGES
3: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES
4: FOC KAN/GETTY IMAGES
5: ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES
6: RAY TAMARRA/GETTY IMAGES
7: JEMAL COUNTESS/GETTY IMAGES

Copley Chamber Players

Live in South Station
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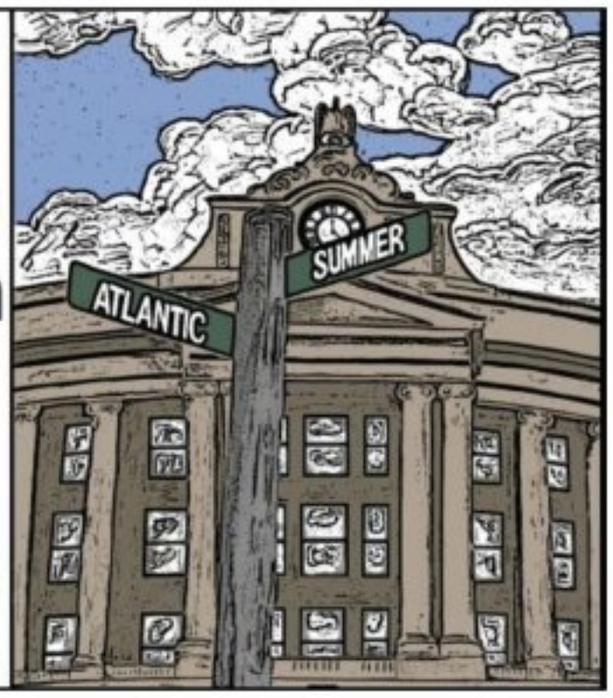

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▶ Johnny Germanotta plays a dope dealer called Kevorkian in "Bad Daddy: The Musical."

'Bad Daddy' taking on mobile devices

Playwright says his musical is a reflection of society and all the people's life stories he has suffered through while being an unwilling eavesdropper

While writing it, Rick Cipes didn't know what the deeper meaning of "Bad Daddy: The Musical" was.

"Looking back, it's really obvious," says the man who also directs and stars in the show. "It's a reaction to my anger from listening to people on their cell phones, screaming their life stories, in public places."

The show examines disconnect in the 21st century, through a divorced dad trying to reconcile with his daughter.

"It's a real cross-generational battle. This father grew up during a time when you'd never take a call at dinner or when with your family," Cipes says. "And now all hell has broken loose."

The former journalist and first-time playwright isn't anti-technology — he loves his Apple gadgets. His musical is meant to be a cautionary tale. But it's not all serious.

"We have go-go dancers and outlandish humor and beautiful ballads as well," says Cipes.

The transition to theater after nearly a decade as a writer for publications such as LA Times, ESPN Magazine and Playboy wasn't hard, at first, for the "Big Daddy" creator.

"This was the easiest thing, initially, to write in my life," he says. "But last summer I rewrote the show entirely for the Oberon, and it was the hardest thing I've ever done."

If you go

'Bad Daddy: The Musical'
Through Aug. 25
Club Oberon
2 Arrow St., Cambridge
$40, 866-811-4111
www.cluboberon.com

Please silence your phones

As we grow more connected to computers and cell phones, we lose our ability to relate to other people, explains Cipes. He says his play will wake audiences up to this reality.

"Even the cast has become more aware of their cell phone use," he says.

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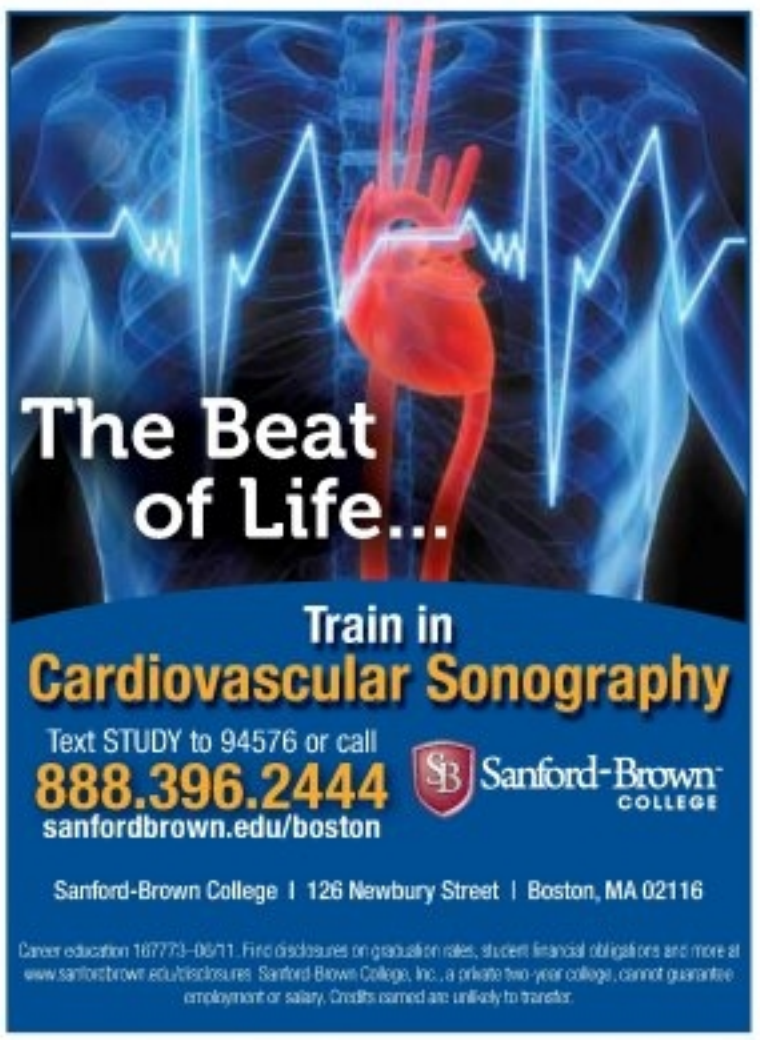

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HE'S FEELING LUCKY

Rapper Hoodie Allen quit his gig at Google to pursue a full-time career in hip-hop

DIANA LEVISE

▶ Hoodie doesn't always take it this easy.

Rapper Hoodie Allen found it difficult to balance both his full-time job at Google and his up-and-coming hip-hop fame, so he picked one.

"I have been making music since I was 13, so it was kind of obvious to me," says the New York-based rapper.

Allen, 21, who built his own success as a YouTube phenom, roping in more than a million views on his single "You Are Not a Robot" during his senior year of college, says he sees his move as a business venture.

"There is a lot of reinvestment and believing in what you do," he says.

Allen says he grew up on De La Soul and has more recently been letting his love of indie rock influence his poppy beats. He has fully funded his new career, putting money down for music videos, free mixtapes and tours. But he says it has paid off. As an independent artist, he has complete creative control and as he says, "That's hard to put a price on."

If you go

- **Hoodie Allen**
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Currently on tour, Allen is celebrating the release of his album "Leap Year," and making his way to the area tonight to headline at the Middle East. He sold out the upstairs venue in Cambridge and was moved to the downstairs stage for tonight's show.

"I had a great experience last time I was here," says Allen. "I'm a New York kid, so you don't know how you'll get received. But the crowd was awesome and I assume it will be better this time around."

Allen says he spends more hours each week at his new job as an emcee than he ever did at Google, where he had the title of AdWords Associate — which means he managed a portfolio of advertiser accounts. But even with the busier work schedule, he doesn't regret the decision.

"Music trumps all," he says.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

A premium deal for concert carpoolers

While it may be expensive to get into a concert at the Comcast Center, you could actually get to the show for free.

LiveNation has teamed up with Gulf Oil to offer patrons $20 gas cards if they buy two or more tickets to select shows.

Though the program started with a ceiling of 1,000 gas cards, it has quickly expanded and has given away nearly 5,000 cards, according to LiveNation Senior Vice President Dave Marsden.

"We're really trying to get back to the basics of: 'Let's treat the customers the best we can, let's make the experience the best we can, make it affordable as we can,'" he says.

The Ride's On Us is an attempt to combat increasing ticket prices and low concert turn out.

The average ticket has a fee of $20 or more, even if you purchase it online and print it out yourself. When asked, Marsden, who spearheaded this promotion, says he was unsure of the exact use of the fee, but that prices are increasing everywhere.

Upcoming rides

- **Aug. 28: Uproar Festival**
  Purchase by Aug. 23
- **Sept. 9: Incubus**
  Purchase by Sept. 4
- **Sept. 17: Toby Keith**
  Purchase by Sept. 12

"I don't really know what those factors are. I just know that it's one of the things that we try to address. If it costs you more to buy a ticket, then we certainly want to give you better service, we want you to see where your seat is," he says. "And now we want to be able to help get you to the show for nothing."

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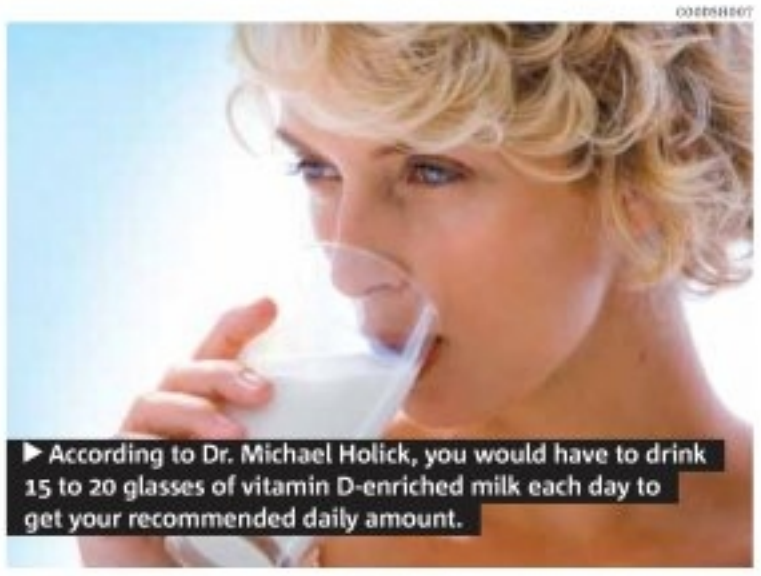
The details on vitamin D

Your bones aren't the only part of your body that benefit from this hormone ◗ Yes, it's a hormone ◗ Plus, how much sun exposure do you really need?

According to Dr. Michael F. Holick's book, "The Vitamin D Solution," a worldwide epidemic is raging and most people don't even know about it.

"Vitamin D deficiency is the most common medical problem worldwide, even in sunny countries," Holick says. Commonly known as the "sunshine vitamin," vitamin D is actually a hormone, and generally only recognized for its relationship with calcium in making strong bones and teeth. Holick's research found that deficiency causes much more — from aching joints to depression — and increases the risk of infection, diabetes and some cancers.

The big problem is that although vitamin D is added to items like milk and orange juice, and found naturally in eggs and some oily fish, dietary sources are woefully insufficient. To get their recommended daily amount: "Children would have to drink 10 glasses of vitamin D-enriched milk per day and adults [would need] 15 to 20 glasses," says Holick. He touts "diet, supplements and sunshine" as ways to up your intake.



▶ According to Dr. Michael Holick, you would have to drink 15 to 20 glasses of vitamin D-enriched milk each day to get your recommended daily amount.

For those with darker skin, who generally have lower amounts of vitamin D than those with white skin, supplements can be especially useful. A study from Georgia Health Sciences University showed that vitamin D supplements also boost the vitality of blood vessels, cutting the risk of cardiovascular issues.

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

How much sun?

The amount of sunshine remains largely dependent on where you live. Sun exposure would have to be in the middle of the day — when UVB rays are available to the skin — and without sun protection, two things that skin cancer specialists say we should avoid.

Moderation is key, says Holick. "If you're in Boston, you only need 15 minutes a day. In Miami, three to five minutes is enough. Without sun, you can't produce [enough] vitamin D."

WWW.METRO.US/WELLBEING
MORE HEALTH NEWS

Fitness

▶ BSC is offering discounts.

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In honor of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Boston Sports Club is offering police, firefighters, EMS workers and military personnel of past and present a $20 monthly gym membership for life. The offer, in appreciation for the workers' efforts and sacrifices, is good until Sept. 30. For more information, visit www.mysportsclubs.com.

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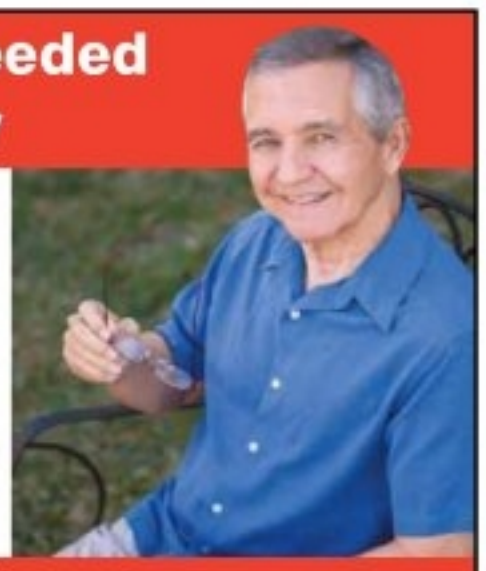

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Ways to save your skin from the summer sun

Madonna's dermatologist, Dr. Fredric Brandt, tells us how to give our skin a subtle summer glow without suffering from the sun's rays in the long run

How the sun does harm: "Sun exposure ages our skin faster than any other element. Anyone who wishes to prevent wrinkles and maintain an even skin tone must wear an SPF of at least 30 everyday no matter where they live. Sun damage happens all the time: winter and summer, sunshine and rain. One of the worst and least suspected culprits comes from some types of fluorescent light bulbs. They can emit UVA rays that are strong enough to cause the breakdown of collagen and elastin."

▶ Even on days you're not at the beach, you still need to wear sunscreen.

BARANASTOCK

Damage control: "The best way to get glowing skin year-round is to accelerate cell turnover — which will prevent dry, flaking skin and stimulate your skin's collagen production. When you pick products, look for ingredients such as retinols, glycolic acid and salicylic acid. All accelerate cell turnover and eliminate dry skin. Vitamin A stimulates new collagen production. If you wish to extend your summer tan into the fall, use a sunless tanner containing dihydroxyacetone (a harmless skin-coloring agent)."

Prepare your skin: "Apply a teaspoon worth of sunscreen to the face, neck, decollete and ears 30 minutes before going outdoors."

During exposure: "Reapply sunscreen more than once throughout the day. Check the UV index to see how much sun you are getting."

After exposure: "If you were burnt, take Advil to help reduce inflammation. Apply aloe vera or cool compresses to the area. Remember to keep your skin hydrated."

ROMINA McGUINNESS
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Letters

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Name names, Mr. President

I want Obama to fix our problems but in order to do that, he needs to stop hiding the names of those members of Congress who continually oppose change of any kind in the name of the Republican party. I bet the massive number of unemployed (which I am fortunate enough not to be included in) can take action and vote to have them removed or at least write to their local government to make changes. It's our country, and we need to take it back! **HOWARD LIVINGSTON, VIA E-MAIL**

This is not a capitalism

RE: "CAPITALISM IS UNSUSTAINABLE": Suzie, you need to read your Adam Smith and figure out what capitalism really is before spouting off. Capitalism exists when everyone has equal access to the marketplace and prices are plotted on a supply and demand curve. The special interests/lobbies in Congress who pay both parties off are there to make sure the system is restricted to only approved players. You may not like the Tea Party, but ask yourself why they are the only third party that has made a difference in the elections since the Progressive party. **CHRISTOPHER WELCH, VIA E-MAIL**

Pay up or shut up, Buffett

RE: "BUFFETT: STOP CODDLING THE RICH": For years Warren Buffett has been vocal about how taxes on the very wealthy should be increased. Yet, throughout his illustrious career he has structured his dealings and compensation in a way to avoid paying taxes. Berkshire Hathaway doesn't pay dividends and he never sells his shares. The death tax won't apply to him either as he is giving away 85 percent of his wealth to charity. Feel free to send some money into the government anytime, Mr. Buffett. **DAVID WALCH, VIA E-MAIL**

Like it or not, we need them

RE: "TAX MONEY NOT FOR THE PEOPLE": Ms. Donnoe thinks taxes should only go towards paying the national debt and nothing else? Fine. I'm sure she won't mind fixing our roads, defending our shores and prosecuting drug suppliers all on her own. After all, according to her, government is "the problem" and shouldn't do anything to defend or assist us all. **JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Although you know a close friend has the information you've been seeking, you might be too reluctant to call him or her on it. Unless you have someone else to go to, it may be your only option.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Avoid trying to imitate the way another does something, because you would be far more effective in doing things your own way. I'm not sure you have the courage to trust yourself.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Certain people with whom you're involved will have long memories. Thus, whether you are cooperative or uncooperative with them won't easily be forgotten. Which will you choose?

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Don't allow multiple responsibilities to intimidate you. However, it will take a strong belief in yourself in order for you to be able to handle several critical assignments simultaneously.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Knowledge acquired makes you a more valuable person. But it depends on your mindset as to whether learning will be a rewarding experience.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're only likely to put forth nominal effort on matters of personal importance, but don't treat the interests of others in the same manner.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Unless you try your best to smooth over conditions, you could find yourself in the middle of a brouhaha. Don't let your ego get in the way.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** The only way your normal channels of revenue have a chance of yielding larger returns than usual is if you can keep your expenses down.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Projects that require tenacity and boldness are the ones that usually appeal to you, but for some reason, this might not be true right now. You could have little staying power.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Even though you should be focusing on situations where you can derive some type of commission, you're likely to direct all your attention on anything but. Get back on track.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you can be more of a listener than a talker, you could learn something that is extremely beneficial — but this might be more than you can expect of yourself. Prove us wrong.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Unless you make a concerted effort to do so, you aren't likely to recoup any losses, whether tangible or intangible. You'll have a chance to so today. Will you? **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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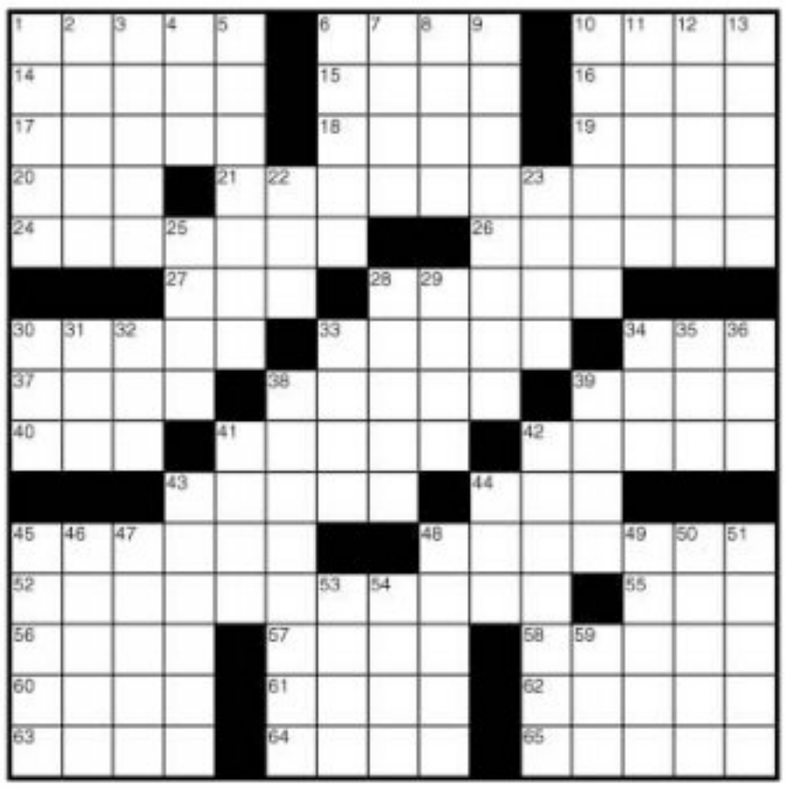
Across
1 Low grower
6 Folk-dance shoe
10 Huff and puff
14 Type of surgeon
15 Carry on
16 This, in Tijuana
17 Ms. Barkin of films
18 Auspice
19 Biggers' sleuth
20 Census info
21 Hard candy
24 Bar sing-along
26 "Didja ever wonder ...?" humorist
27 NFC player
28 Timely benefits
30 Yellow pigment
33 Lash of oaters
34 Haze
37 Make muddy
38 Asks a question
39 Hunter's quarry
40 Insect killer
41 Knickknack
42 Vicar's residence
43 Cameos, maybe
44 Plunging neckline
45 "1984" author
48 Racetrack near Miami
52 Melodramatic cry (2 wds.)
55 Large parrot
56 Sulk angrily
57 Not theirs
58 Grocery section
60 Sports channel
61 Legal document
62 Pyle or Kovacs
63 Take a snooze
64 Zilch
65 Stormed

Down
1 Smuggle
2 Hagar's wife, in comics
3 Yardstick
4 Suffix for forfeit
5 Nice greeting? (2 wds.)
6 Russell of "Gladiator"
7 Pet of rhyme
8 Not sunnyside up
9 Free from meanness
10 Small lizards
11 Gray
12 Fixed gaze
13 Bedding plant
22 Dog show org.
23 Five-star (hyph.)
25 "Green Mansions" hero
28 Foundation
29 Hydrox rival
30 California fort
31 __ liver oil
32 Web-search result
33 Old wives' tales
34 Groupie
35 Mantra chants
36 Golly!
38 Earn (2 wds.)
39 Highlander
41 Nat "King" __
42 Wind around
43 Give in
44 Sundial numeral
45 Volunteer
46 Waken
47 Nerds
48 __ luego!
49 Forcing ends to meet
50 Cliffside abode
51 Did field work
53 Mystique
54 Power system
59 Altar constellation



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					2			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

			1	9			4	
7			2		3		6	
		1		7		2		
	5	3			9	8		
			3		5			
		2	6			9	5	
		8		3		6		
	3		8		2			1
	2			4	1			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

H	O	O	P	S		R	A	S	H		L	I	S	T
A	D	H	O	C		E	C	H	O		I	O	T	A
G	E	S	S	O		F	R	I	G	H	T	W	I	G
		T	U	R	E	E	N		O	M	A	R	S	
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T	E	S	S		G	L	U	E	Y		P	L	A	N
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A	N	N	E		Y	U	R	T		E	U	B	I	E
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A beast, when he's used right

Andre Carter wasn't terribly effective out of the 3-4 last year ◐ But when he's deployed correctly, watch out ◐ How will Belichick use him?

Somewhat lost in the frenzy over Chad Ochocinco and Albert Haynesworth this offseason has been the Patriots' acquisition of Andre Carter.

The defense end/linebacker comes to New England after 10 superb seasons split between the 49ers and Redskins.

Over his career, he has 442 tackles (340 solo) in 149 games. He's sacked the quarterback 66 times, including 11 in 2009, and has forced 15 fumbles.

In other words, the 6-foot-4, 257-pound Carter is a beast.

But he's a beast who must be used correctly.

Moved to outside linebacker last season when the Redskins switched to a 3-4 base, his production dropped off from '09. He just didn't seem to fit into the new scheme.

"I think the positive side of playing linebacker was that it did make me versatile," Carter said. "I knew more about the game than I ever did through the experience.

"I was able to cover every now and then — I held my own, to that regard. I'm just more comfortable … and more effective in a three-point [stance]."

Perhaps that's a little look into what Bill Belichick has in store. But at this early stage of the preseason, the coach seems to see plusses all over.

"He's a pretty talented player," Belichick said. "He was the seventh pick in the [2001] draft; I don't think you stumble into that spot."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Andre Carter's signing has been somewhat overlooked this offseason. If offensive lines choose to overlook him this season, they might have some issues.

Rich bloodline

Bill Belichick and Carter's family go back a while.

- **Belichick coached** Carter's father, Rubin, as a defensive assistant with the Broncos in 1978.
- **"[Andre has]** obviously been well-coached, with his family and his [college] career at Cal," Belichick said. "He has a lot of things going for him. He's a smart guy."

In baseball

Big Papi sits out

David Ortiz didn't start in yesterday's doubleheader against the Tampa Bay Rays due to bursitis in his right heel.

He was scratched just before the day game, and Jed Lowrie was inserted at DH. The original story was that Ortiz was ill; manager Terry Francona said that was simply a miscommunication. METRO

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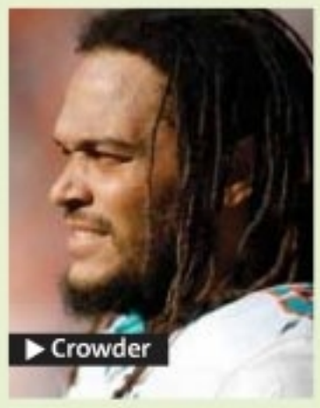

▶ Crowder

Crowder talking return

Dolphins LB Channing Crowder shocked the NFL this month when he announced his retirement at age 27.

In a move that surprises few, he's already talking about returning to the league.

Crowder told Miami radio station WQAM that he intends to sit out the 2011 season, with his wife due to have a baby soon. But he'll likely be back on the field in '12 or '13. METRO

Warren injured

Former Patriots DL Ty Warren won't be on the field for the Broncos to start 2011.

The run-stopper, who signed a free-agent deal with Denver after being cut by New England, suffered a torn triceps this week. He's out indefinitely, though he might be able to dodge surgery. METRO

'Digging' at Pats camp

Is there a topic that hasn't been covered by the media at Patriots training camp?

Bill Belichick's not sure.

The coach was asked about kickoff returns a number of times at yesterday's news conference.

"We're really digging now, aren't we?" Belichick joked. "It's the end of training camp. When was the last time we've had a press conference that's gone into kickoff returns in such depth?" METRO

UFC to ink Fox deal?

Mixed martial arts may have found a permanent home on network television.

Or maybe not.

Sports Business Daily reported yesterday that the UFC — by far the biggest MMA promotion — has agreed to a multi-year TV deal with Fox. But UFC president Dana White wouldn't confirm the story. METRO

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Ellsbury by the numbers

THE DEAL:

Jacoby Ellsbury accounted **for all the Red Sox offense** in their 3-1 doubleheader-opening victory over the Rays yesterday, **socking a three-run home run** in the third. Here's his season-long power surge, by the numbers.

21
Going into last night's late game, Ellsbury had 21 HRs in 2011. That's more than the entire rest of his career, combined (20).

17
Yesterday's HR left Ellsbury at 77 RBIs on the year — 17 more than his old high.

30
Ellsbury's HR total this year is the most by a Red Sox player with 30 or more steals.

According to stats from Thebaseballcube.com, Ellsbury never reached 10 HRs in a season in the minors or even college.

GETTY IMAGES

Lester

Lester a winner over Rays

Jacoby Ellsbury may have powered the Red Sox offense in yesterday's early game, but it was Jon Lester who ultimately lifted them to victory.

The lefty ace threw seven innings of one-run, three-hit ball in Boston's 3-1 win. He fanned eight and walked one.

Daniel Bard and Jonathan Papelbon threw an inning each of perfect relief.

Lester (12-6) improved his ERA to 3.22 on the season. METRO

Getaway day matinee for Sox

John Lackey will start for Boston in today's getaway day matinee against Tampa Bay (1:35 p.m., NESN).

David Price gets the ball for the Rays. METRO

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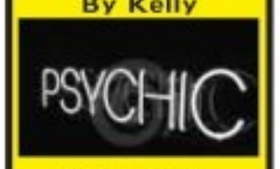

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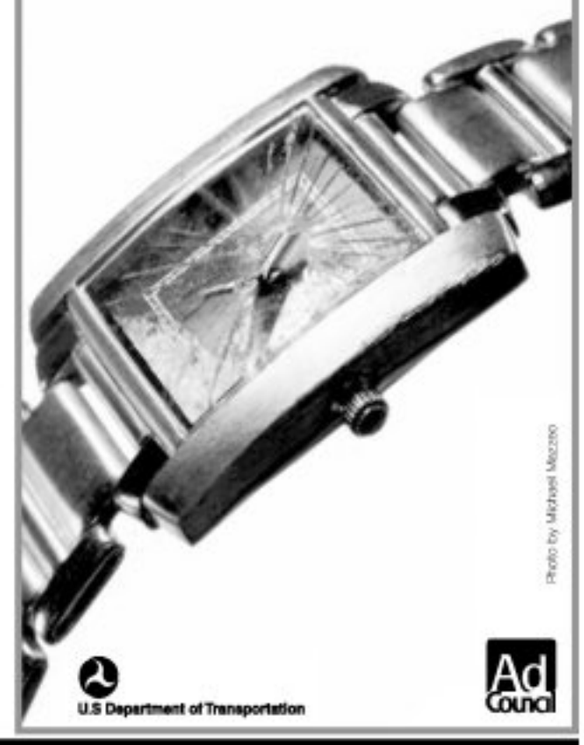
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Here come the higher rents

The amount of open apartments is way down, which means rent is way up Why the Hub is experiencing its hottest rental market in nearly a decade

It's the busiest time of year for rentals in Boston and, unfortunately for apartment-seekers, it's also the hottest rental market in almost a decade.

With consumers worried about purchasing real estate in a down economy, the rental market is heating up with vacancy rates at their lowest level since 2002, according to recent statistics and Boston brokers.

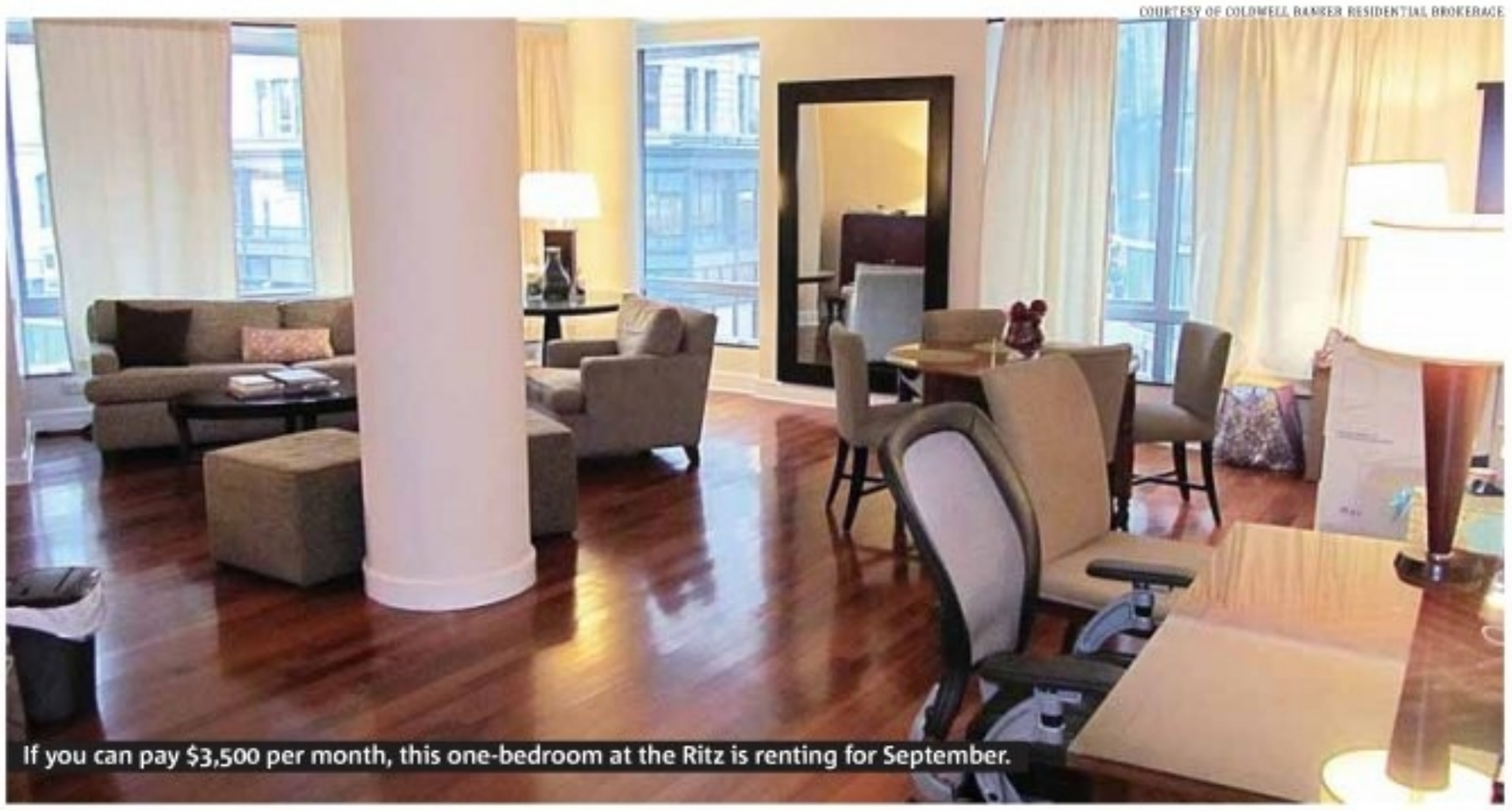
The rental market is very competitive this fall with some rents 20 percent more than last year, according to Briggs Johnson, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the South End.

A rental analysis by Marcus & Millichap's National Multi Housing Group found that in 2011 the Hub's apartment vacancy rate will decrease to 4 percent.

"I've witnessed Boston apartment rental increases from 10 to 25 percent with some of my landlords," says John Ford, owner of Ford Realty in Beacon Hill. "Even with the rising rents, our apartment listings were scooped up in days, sometimes within hours of them being listed."

A study by RentalBeast.com found that Greater Boston is the fifth most-expensive rental market in the country. The median price of an apartment was $1,665 in the second quarter of this year, setting a new record for the region, according to the study.

"The major culprit seems to be the uncertainty in the economy. Many renters thinking about purchasing condos are reluctant to make the big move, whether for job uncertainty or for the more restrictive mortgage requirements," says Ford.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Vacancies

Vacancy rates in Back Bay and Beacon Hill are around **1.2 percent**, according to RentalBeast.com.

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By Attorney George Warshaw

I'm taking another pause from real estate and estate planning to provide one more commentary on the deficit debacle and resulting stock market roller coaster.

Most of us, including me, don't know beans about the deficit and how it really affects any of us. Given the economic and political strength of this country, no one here or abroad really thought or cared much about it; that is, until the constant bickering, name calling, and economic diatribes by politicians who either don't or can't balance a checkbook exposed two things to the world:

First, the politicians running our country clearly preferred bickering, name calling and positioning for the next election to decision making and governance.

Second, we, and hence the world, were in more economic trouble than anyone knew.

The exposure of our economic and political problems led to a crisis in confidence in our ability to govern and our capability to solve our own problems. Our credit rating was downgraded as a consequence.

Now, nearly all who voted for the compromise claim they were opposed to it.

And they're still bickering, blaming and doing nothing that helps you or me. That's why I say, let's vote them all out, Republicans and Democrats alike.

Read more at www.georgeinthemetro.com . © 2011 George Warshaw.

GWA

Attorney George Warshaw represents buyers and sellers of homes, condos and investment properties, prepares wills and trusts for inheriting real estate, and trusts that protect your children and pets. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

Makeover ideas for your bathroom

Matt Muenster, a licensed contractor and the host of DIY Network's 'Bath Crashers,' shows you what to do

No longer simply a place to freshen up, the bathroom is taking on a new role as focal point, according to Matt Muenster, the host of "Bath Crashers" on DIY Network. So how can you turn your (likely cramped) water closet into an all-out haven? Muenster gives the following tips.

MEREDITH ENGEL
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FOR EVEN MORE TIPS FOR YOU BATHROOM, GO TO: WWW.METRO.US/HOME

▶ "Bath Crashers" with host Matt Muenster airs Mondays at 9 p.m. on DIY Network.

Don't underestimate a fresh paint job

"I think it's often overlooked," says Muenster. "You have to keep in mind [that] in a bathroom, just make it scrubbable. Take a risk with [color]. At the end of the day, if you don't like it realize it's just paint and it's in the smallest room in your house. You can try it again."

COURTESY OF DIY NETWORK

▶ Muenster transformed this bleak bathroom into a spa-like sanctuary.

▶ Create accent areas
"If you've got a back wall of tile in your shower-tub combo, you can take out just a few of them. There's a lot of techniques you can find online to remove a center section of that tile, like three tiles high by ten tiles wide, without damaging the adjacent tiles. Spend ten bucks a sheet on four sheets of really cool accent tiles and do a small tile job like that. You get some color in there without tearing down everything. That's a project you can do in a day."

▶ Let the light in
"Lighting is key. Hang a couple pendants above your vanity [and] bring in some colored glass there. Don't be afraid to do something bold. These are small rooms — even a small, bold blue will be perceived as something big."

▶ Go for a monolithic floor
"Go bigger than 12-by-12 [with floor tiles]. That floor's gonna feel more expansive." Bigger tiles also mean less grout to clean, Muenster says. "Install tiles as close to each other as you can. Do 1/8 inch [or] smaller."

▶ Choose the right mirror
If you have a large, unbecoming mirror, "take that down and buy a smaller-scale mirror." If you want to keep yours as is, at least get a nice frame — it's easier than you think! "There are kits where you can literally, with double-stick foam tape, apply a frame to one of those giant plate glass mirrors that looks like a wood frame. It adds a little bit of extra, layered detail."

▶ Match your finishes
"If you've got chrome faucets, have chrome towel bars. They feel like small things, but in a bathroom, there's some big impact there."

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